



ARENA REPORT



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I'd like to welcome all of you to another issue of "AR". A big thank you to Dave Meltzer and Steve Beverly for their plugs in last weeks issues of the Observer and Matwatch respectively. The response has been great to the free Mansfield interview with a five ish subscription. In this ish we have two live reports (were to have three but the IWF Orlando show was scrubbed due to a scheduling conflict) from WCW. One from St. Pete which was helld 8/23 and the other from Jacksonville On 8/24. We have a special guest column that we promised last week from K.C, O'Coonor entitled "Quickies, Ghosts, and a Cold Beer". Marianne Ryan's column showed up at my fax the day the issue went out so that's included as well. She is under the weather thus the delay. Hope you're back on your feet kid. Evan Ginzburg spouts off on some recent happenings in "A Piece of My Mind". And Mike Terry gives us his feelings on Dusty's sibling as one of the matters in his 2-Cents. Of course the irrepressible (did I use that word right Gorilla) Scott Hudson just got back from Dallas (Boy, is my new schedule screwing him.) with another "Georgia Wrestling Journal" with results from the U.S. Title tourney from the Omni.

Next issue will be cover dated 9/9 and have a live report from the IWF show in Winter Haven skedded for 9/6. I may also go to a CWF card in Tampa on 9/8 so there may be a live report on that one where Jimmy Backlund meets Jerry Flynn in the main event. I'll have some "Summer Slam Snippets" on the PPV. Klone will once again come out from under his shroom to expound on the biz. Scott Hudson returns with the Journal. And hopefully Marianne will be here back on her feet to give us her opinion on SS.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. There is a label on your envelope indicating how many issues you have remaining on your sub. All renewals, letters, and match results may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Let's go to that city with that huge new stadium that has nothing else to do (since they didn't get a baseball team) but wait until Vince takes a Wrestlemania their way.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Friday, August 23, 1991

Bayfront Center

St. Petersburg, FL

Opening Match

Big Josh beat Joey Maggs with the butt drop in 3:04. Maggs was a sub for Black Blood who was fired eons ago. Borne acted almost heel like. He was stiff as hell with Maggs. He came out with the six man belt which perplexed many fans as they hadn't aired it on TV yet. The way it should be. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

2nd Match

Bobby Eaton sliced and diced Tony Mella with the legdrop from the top rope in 2:32. Mella was a sub for Stan Hansen. I knew Stan wouldn't be there.

didn't they? Mella works in this area as Lebanese Assassin. After these first two bouts, I tried to change the channel. I thought I was watching TBS. ¼*

Tag Team Match

Young Pistols beat The Freebirds in 9:26. Was billed in program as for U.S. straps but the Birds lost those to the Patriots but once again, not on TV yet and Birds didn't have belts and it wasn't pushed as a title. Need some commas in there, what do you say Ron? Good match but these match up is as over done as Lou Perez-Jimmy Backlund. Chant of "Freebirds Rule" went up and P.S. Hayes urged the crowd on. Pistols were booed. Humper was here as he's not through till beginning of September. Hayes and Armstrong collided and Garvin put Hayes on top but when ref turned around, Smothers came in and reversed it and Southern Pistols got the pin. ***½

World TV Championship

Steve Austin and Johnny B. Badd went to a ten minute draw at 10:08. How do you like that, a time limit draw actually went over the time limit. Looks like Austin has stopped having his orange juice in the morning. He's getting a little flabby. Badd was doing alot of shadow boxing. Was happy to perform near his hometown fans. Blossom got great heat with ringsiders. Steve Austin took this great bump where he had Johnny's neck straddled on the ropes and he came off the other end to straddle him on the back of the neck but Badd moved and Austin bounced off and went about six feet in the air before coming down. *½

Bounty Match

Arn Anderson pinned Yellow Dog in 8:28 reversing a sunset flip and holding the tights for the win. Fillman was pulling his mask off behind the ref's back and Arn was freaking out. Can a fan take a picture of Brian doing that and send it in so he gets suspended for life? Oh, forgot wrestling is a work for a minute there. Just hate this bounty angle. **

World Heavyweight Championship

Lex Luger retained the world title pinning Barry Windham in 13:18. Tremendous match ruined only by the finish. Are you surprised? Fans obviously don't consider Luger a heel at houses until the match starts and they see the tactics he uses. Fans popped for him when introed. He turned them around pretty good though. Barry takes such a great bump when he misses the flying body press and sails over the ropes. Race's clothesline outside the ring looks worse than Humperdink's. Finish saw them brawling outside and Race tapped Barry in the back of the head twice and threw him in the ring where Lex pinned him. Cheap finish to a great bout. Christopher hits me harder than that. **** but take ¼* away for finish. ***¾

Special Grudge Match

Richard Morton & Terrence Taylor beat Dustin Rhodes & Robert Gibson in 16:08. Chant went out "Terry sucks". Taylor grabbed the mic and said, "All you people in St. Pete suck." Good wholesome family entertainment. Oh, forgo wrong group so it's okay. Heels played great rag dolls. Good match. Another shit finish as Terry tripped Gibson coming off the ropes and held his foot while Morton pinned him. **¾

Battle of the Giants

El Gigante beat One Man Gang via count out at 5:33. Match was 5:33 too long. Worst match I've seen live all year. Sullivan was there to give constant groin shots to El with the bell ringer. El was trying to get all the way in the ring while Gang was pulling him from outside and got counted out. I can't count high enough in the negative star range.

No Disqualification Match

Rick Steiner & P.U. News beat Hardliners in 13:17. When faces came to the ring, they played News music and not Rick's. That's how you treat ½ of one of your best acts in the company. Rick sat on the bottom buckle looking disgusted while News rapped (?). Murdoch hit News with a good chair shot but there was no flow to this bout. P.U. stinks. Rick hit Slater with a Steinerline and pinned him. ¼*

Steel Cage Match

Sting beat Nikita Koloff in 5:08 due to a DQ. The epitomy of WCW finishes. It took them longer to put up the cage than the bout lasted. When Koloff had the upper hand, Cactus Jack came out and got in the cage and they doubled on Sting until Steiner climbed the cage. Poor Cactus, when he was trying to walk out the door, Steiner leaped over the cage and fell right on him. But knowing Jack, he probably liked it. Dud

NOTES

Attendance was 2,300 which is one of their biggest crowds lately....Ready for the line up changes? Zenk-Diamond Stud was scrapped as Stud was a no show.

And of course the two no shows previously mentined in the opening bouts. There was a sign on the outside saying Blood and Studd wouldn't be there. (They were right. No blood in the cage either.) No offer for refunds. Shoot. I only wen so I could see Black Blood too.....I'm starting to think Steve Armstrong is illiterate. He was supposed to be at the autograph session at Wrestle Fan I but Zenk subbed and tonight it was to be Pistols and Dustin but Zenk took Steve place again. Unless Zenk loves these things so much he pays Steve to replace him....Here was P.N. News new rap song, "Yo baby yo baby yo, &&&&)**##))&_ ((%&***@)((%(*((#*&&&&#%(), I said Yo baby, yo baby, yo." Couldn't understand a darn word he said....Here's a major league group. They're cuuing the music while the crowd is filing in....Overall the card is okay match quality wise but they still have no clue on decisive finishes.

 RABBLINGS

With all the recent events going on in Titan lately, (i.e. Flair coming to the WWF, the Jake-Harrior angle, the Mountie-Boss Man angle where BBA was foaming at the mouth) alot of people are questioning Vince's claim to family entertainment. Well, I look at it this way. Vince is just trying to broaden his audience. I think he realizes that he can only go so far with the 8-15 year olds. The scary thing is though, look what has happened to WCW who try to appeal to everyone. Although the people that run that group have no brains or business sense so there really is no comparison....Jim Herd may be involved in some legal hassles stemming from comments he has made over the Flair firing....Vince McMahon has given 20 wrestlers six weeks off after SummerSlam since they will be only running one house show per night until Hogan comes back from vacation. Apparently, Vince has told those 20 wrestlers that for those six weeks they can accept dates for other work but need to let him know first. Yeah, right....Suncoast Pro Wrestling had TV tapings in Manatee on 8/24 with Tommy Rogers saying he beat Lou Perez for the Southern title in Ocala. (Where, at Dory Funk Jr.'s ranch?) Was a fictitious title change since Lou is working solely for IWF....Titan Sports invited a few members of the underground wrestling media for a tour of their facilities on Friday 8/23 in Stamford, CT and also an informal chat with Vince McMahon. Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller, Mike Lano, Larry Katz, John Arezzi, and a couple of N.Y. paper reporters were on hand. No one involved really knew why they were invited and even after it was all over, they weren't sure. Although from the direction the conversation was going, it seemed Vince was going to indirectly ask them to shill for the WWF or lessen the attack on certain issues that are a little volatile. According to one source, Vince gave up on doing that as Wade Keller was pretty tough on Vince with his questions and McMahon could feel too much resistance among the gathering. What the heck did he expect. I'm looking forward to reading all about this in the Observer and Torch this week....A big crowd showed up for the Arezzi convention at Laguardia Airport (hotel) this past weekend. Was told the highlight from Saturday was Jim Cornette during a question and answer session absolutley blasted Jim Herd. Ric Flair was there and wouldn't talk much about his going to Titan saying he was still under contract to WCW. But one insider told me he's very excited to be going to Titan....Sorry to see that Steve Beverly will be folding up shop in Matwatch on January 27. He'll be sorely missed. Speaking of Matwatch, did you see the article on Alex Marvez? Hey Alex, get a grip on your ego will you. Jim Herd has put a gag order on his people talking to Alex and Marvez says they'll miss his kind of coverage he gives them. Please.....Congrats to Rich and Kathy Kraemer on the birth of their daughter Kelly Marie....Also to "AR" reader George Maranville on his wedding. Another hardcore bites the dust....John Lanigan, P.O. Box 583, McKee sport, PA 15134 would like to trade audio cassette tapes of his other passion, New Age music, which features artists like Yanni, Arkenstone, Enya, and Deuter.

 (continued from page 7)

writers and when they looked at us funny we said they'd remember this conversation 10 years from now....We went to the hotel bar after the card and there was absolutley no kay fabe whatsoever. Jimmy Garvin high fiving Tracy Smothers Garvin and Pillman talking to two Willard's about tag teaming them. Bobby Eaton talking to Arn Anderson. Line of the night goes to Bill Otten. After I said, "There is no kay fabe here tonight." Otten said, "Kay fabe died after 20/20." Ziing....What a sight. Two old codgers Dick Murdoch and Harley Race sitting watching the Bears-Bills game on giant screen TV. I'm so naive. Murdoch was sitting next to this girl who looked no more than 18. I insisted to Chris that it had to be his daughter. Chris said, "I don't think you would grab your daughter's ass." Speaking of Murdoch, he and Slater are not booked all through September. Problem is Murdoch tells Herd what he thinks about him to his face and Slater is suffering for it as well....Another hilarious moment was Chris trying to strike up a conversation with El Gigante and Terry Taylor walking by and busting a gut when he saw Chris trying to make conversation. Seems Chris heard from a lady in pink that El spoke English. So sorry señor....PLUGS- Gary Vaughn of 310 N. Oakdale, Salina, KS 67401 has a large list of tapes for sale. Send a S.A.S.E. for a list. See you in 2.....Ron

by Mike Terry

I won't make too many friends with this comment, but I really wish everybody down on Dustin Rhodes would get off his back. We're all supposed to be pissed at Dusty, so we take it out on the kid, right? Maybe I'm dense (it's been suggested) but I think Dustin's abilities more than justify the push. But in many of the newsletters, it seems to be open season on Dustin. Frankly, he's a damn sight better than a lot of the men being put over. Seems some people's vision is clouded by Dustin's lineage. Last time Dustin was on the tube I watched critically, wondering if I was missing something. Don't think so, gang. The kid's solid, graceful, skillful, and tight--just as this column said months ago. Doesn't deserve the push? Who deserves it more? The manner in which the push is implemented is another story and Dustin can't really be blamed for that, can he? Next time he appears, listen to the reaction from the fans. I rest my case.

One area in which the WWF is an also-ran to WCW is in commercial/promo production. Have you caught the promo pushing Sting during which he talks about how much the "Little Stingers" mean to him? More state-of-the-art technology from the creative wizards at TBS.....Those whiz-kids might want to re-design the opening of WCW Main Event--you know, the one that features Flair's belt?

I can't mention creative production without mentioning the Jake-Warrior series. Absolutely stunning in its execution and effectiveness. Is this an illustration of the talents of hotshot network producer John Fillipelli who joined the WWF team some months ago? Whatever, I can't wait for the next similar endeavor. As I've mentioned many times before in this column, this is the type of programming the promotions have to do to maintain interest and provide an alternative to the same boring, monotonous matches week after week.....I suggest a new category for the year-end awards: Best Performance in a Creative Sketch. This year's undisputed winner: Jake the Snake Roberts.

With all the money Andre the Giant has made in his career, can't he afford some decent clothes? Of course he singlehandedly may be keeping the polyester industry in business.....Interesting disclaimer aired before the "WWF Challenge" show 3 weeks back on Detroit TV. It read: "The following broadcast time has been purchased by the sponsor and does not necessarily reflect the view of this station." Wonder if it has anything to do with the Jake-Warrior segments?

Sean Mooney would be more effective if he'd turn up the excitement level where appropriate. It would have been appropriate to exhibit some semblance of enthusiasm when Colonel Mustafa beat Davey Boy Smith. Instead Sean was very matter-of-fact. Of course, maybe he was as shocked as the rest of us at that decision. What did Davey Boy do to earn that sentence? I may be wrong, but Davey Boy looked a little slimmer. And where's Winston? And who cares?

So what are Bruce and Dr. Tom Prichard up to these days? I've been waiting for their faces to appear on my milk carton.....Say it ain't so, Joe: The Patriot got a call to be with Stormin' Norman??? Even got a congratulatory telegram from Washington??? That's stretching the truth tighter than Joe's collar.

Hardcore fans may salute Joe Pedocino for covering other promotions on his news segment, but if I had a new promotion, it'd be my own talent making the news. If the other promotions want coverage, let them buy a commercial.

I called Missy's hotline the other week to find out what kind of information the public was paying \$2 plus for. Missy told me more than I wanted to know about Lady Blossom: how she used to be married to Chris Adams and Billy Jack Haynes, and that she had a 10-year old daughter, Jade. Missy also mentioned Jason Hervey, "who I love more than anything else," and said she'd be getting her own segment on the Power Hour.

If you wonder why Jim Neidhart continues to co-host "Wrestling Challenge" despite any evidence of ability or talent, consider that this show also airs in Canada under the name "Wrestling Cavalcade," and that Canada has strict rules about featuring Canadian talent on shows that air there. You'll also understand then why the credits list Jack Tunney as executive producer.

Quote of the month: Magnum T.A. (the Casey Stengel of pro wrestling) as Arn Anderson wraps Robert Gibson's leg around the ring post: "They're going right for the jugular." Later in the same match: "Their fire is full of vim and vigor." You won't have to listen very long to fill a page with lines like that.

Maalox Moment of the Month: Jim Ross, who has been rather successfully fighting his urges to make derogatory, sexist remarks about women, couldn't resist when the camera took a tight shot of Lady Blossom's rather ample chest (no they didn't use a wide-angle lens): "...one of our sponsors--Milk--does a body good." Of course if I called that a "titallating remark" that would put me in Ross' class.

One good thing about Bill Kazmier teaming with Rick Steiner, it'll make us appreciate Scott that much more when he returns. And when he does come back, let's hope his body is slimmer and more svelte.

And I'm outta here until next month. Thanks to all who have commented on this column. Till next time, keep your blood pressure in check, it's just my 2-cents.

QUICKIES, GHOSTS, AND A COLD BEER

by K.C. O'Connor

WCW's Great American Bash tour made a stop at Greensboro, NC on Saturday, August 10. Although it was only the second card in 15 years without Ric Flair, I was still as excited as I was when I attended my first card. I must admit I'm a wrestling junkie, regardless of how low the sport has become I'm always hoping for that first big rush. Well, WCW has gone from being comparable to a fine seven course meal, to being similar to the after effects of dinner at Taco Bell. Just leaves a lingering stench in the air.

Sam Houston, the Mid-Atlantic champion, came out and rolled around with Black Bart for longer than necessary. After Houston got the pin with the bulldog, Black Bart rolled out, walked by a supportive "Front Row Section D" and summed up the attitude of the entire company with two words- "Cold beer". Definately a premonition of things to come.

Birds got the pin over the Southern Boys when Badstreet snuck in and DDT'd Armstrong. So much for brotherly love. One team wanted to work and one team wanted to entertain. Any gamblers out there want to bet on a sure thing? Still a good match at ***.

Former Georgia tag team contenders Arn Anderson and Big Josh came in next. Arn led a countdown when he saw our sign, "Arn Anderson, the Last Horseman". He didn't argue when we told him we'd see him in Indianapolis next spring. Poor Josh came by me to get a high five. When I pulled my hand back, that was extended for the vendor, and told him, "Sorry, I'm a heel fan." He stopped, and said, "F-- you" and walked away. What a babyface! And they fired Beetlejuice!

F.N. News informed the Coliseum that he was glad to be in Charlotte. Hey Neu, easy on the valium buddy. News got to slam Teddy Long after he interfered on behalf on Johnnie B. Badd for the DQ in a brief stinker.

In the never ending pursuit to duplicate Titan, Barry Windham faced Lex Luger in the main event that was 5th out of eight matches. Lex and Barry were welcomed by a sign that said "Ghosts of Wrestling Past" and almost a dozen of us wearing brown paper bags on our heads. Each bag had a name of wrestlers that WCW has recently lost. Flair, Funk, Steamboat, Cornette, Hansen, Gordy, and others. That got a big pop from the crowd which pissed off the two men in the main event which is actually tired old hash from Florida 5 years ago. But they put on a **** match that saw Lex go from getting cheered at the intro to jeered at the bell when he rolled up Windham after Barry went for Harley "J.J." Race. Barry turned the crowd big time into his favor. Hopefully these two had something to do, and the main event in the middle of the card isn't permanent.

Bruce Mitchell said that Bobby Eaton and Steve Austin worked a **** draw but I must confess, all my attention and energy was focused on Lady Blossom. I don't see how she could ever forget this town after the shit she took. I'd call her a good sport but she appeared near tears at one point. Mike Gunter wins a no-prize for his line of the night. Holding up his American Express Gold card for Jeannie to see, he yells, "Table dance! Table dance!" Hey Mike, how's the wife?

Rick Steiner and Dick Slater rushed through a ** bout but took long enough to break Tony "I've still got my job" Gillam's table. Too drained from Jeannie to get into it, but I do have a problem with Steiner pinning the Harddick with only one clothesline.

The next match was a pathetic attempt at a Wargames. On one side, Gibson, Zenk, Simmons, and Sting. It gets worse. The heels have Morton, Diamond Stud, CMG, and Nikita. Tony shaved :45 seconds off of Morton and Gibson. Gibson blew up so bad it was scary. Guess whether the heels or faces won the coin toss? By this time I wasn't expecting much. It wasn't an awful card, there just seemed to be no enthusiasm in the guys, but I'm really not surprised. According to the rules the match should go at least 17:00. Sting made Morton submit at 15:30, 90 seconds after Sting walked through the cage, he was back walking out. I came very close to pelting Sting with my drink on his way out. I couldn't believe it! 90 damn seconds! But the more I thought about it the more I realized, if the brass doesn't care, why should he?

The crowd was around 1,500, about the same as when Flair was there. Proves that whether you work or have a good gimmick, it doesn't matter. Wrestling sells tickets, not the men. I'll still go to WCW cards, I'll still be awaiting that initial rush, but pretty soon my supplier may get busted, and then where will I be?

PLUGS

Bruce Ginevan has a copy of the Corraluzzo show with Backlund-Funk. Anyone interested can write him at 405 Deep Run Pkwy., Elkridge, MD 21227....Brent Clark of 125 Brentwood Dr., North Tonawanda, NY 14120 is looking for copies of the Goodhart shows from March, May, and August. He has lots of tapes he can trade in return....And I myself am looking for the final show of the Global tag tourney that had the semi-finals and final match. Let me know if you got it and we'll work something out.

A PIECE OF MY MIND BY: EVAN GINZBURG

Ric Flair fired! Gorbachev toppled! Elvis alive!? It's mass chaos time folks.

So what better time for a piece of **my** own semi-coherent mind? Here's some stream of consciousness y'all...

Ric in WWF, huh? Just about the only thing that'll get my butt back in **those** (I shudder at the thought) WWF seats. Ric-Hogan? Yeah, I'd buy a ticket. Hey, since WWF isn't doing much with Steamboat, how about making him a "stepping stone" for the nature boy? Certainly would produce great matches and it's better than seeing him a bottom of the card fire breathing cartoon...

Speaking of Ricky, just can't understand **not** acknowledging **his** past. Here's a former WWF (Inter-Continental) champ who appeared on the biggest PPV of all time and defeated one of the WWF's greatest stars ever in Savage. Wouldn't **that** info/hype help make him box-office? Seems more significant than the fire-breathing shtick which I've seen on street corners of N.Y. believe it or not.

Yeah, Ric, Ricky, Hennig, Hart, Rockers, Savage, Orient Express, etc. WWF really could have it **both** ways. Give the kiddies the doggies, birds, costumes, and steroidal monster/cartoon characters but **also** give the hardcores their 2 or 3 **hot** matches. Why the hell not? Nothing's drawing today but Undertaker-Warrior so they really have no reason not to try to attract **everyone**. I'm sure that even if the promotion's still geared to the little hulkamaniacs, if the mummies and daddies have a good time too they'll be more anxious to come back (I hope I'm coming off as condescending a I'm **trying** to sound)! Really, though, Vince has a shot at a monopoly if he plays his cards right, and if he gets past the "don't make the super-heavyweights look bad philosophy" he really should unleash some of that vast talent base rather than bury them on undercards. Sad to say, but with the exception of Cactus Jack, Paul E., The Steiners, Barry, Arn & Bobby Eaton, WCW doesn't have a helluva lot to compete with these days.

I'm off to Ca. & Vegas next week. Hopefully I'll have some interesting (rasslin' related) stories for y'all.

Did a radio show recently on WBAU-FM (90.3) in N.Y. I was in studio & Bobo Brazil, Ox Baker, and Ivan Koloff were on phone. Thought it was interesting that some memories that are so **vivid** to me were just another match to these guys. For example, I asked Bobo what he thought of Bruiser Brody, having wrestled him to a 20 minute draw at a packed MSG in the mid-seventies. Bobo totally forgot ever facing the guy! This surprised me, but when you think the guy did probably 300 "one-niters" a year for **40 years(!)** it wasn't quite as shocking. Also asked him about wrestling the Sheik on the undercard of the Tolos-Blassie Closed Circuit spectacular (a hundred thousand plus dollar gate in 1971!), and it also didn't ring a bell. Did, however, really enjoy speaking with Ivan who was one of my all time faves. Here's a guy who used to sell out huge arenas vs. Morales, Sammartino, Backlund, Verne Gagne etc. and each guy had on nothing but a pair of tights. No snakes, make-up, body-bags etc. In Koloff's 1975 series vs. Sammartino at MSG they sold the place out 3 straight months (22,093 seats) plus sold out Felt-Forum in MSG's first cage match which holds about 4,000. So we're talking 70,000 seats in 3 shows which would be an incredible figure today when wrestling is even bigger in terms of popularity, but certainly not better in terms of quality. The Ivan Koloff's of the world are a "dying breed" and are **sorely** missed.

Thus ends my sermon. And to all of you who really believe that the Hulkster's accomplished everything he has through prayers, exercise, and vitamins, bless you! You are trusting souls, pure of heart, and better men and women than poor, wretched cynical old me!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Saturday, August 24, 1991

Jacksonville Coliseum

Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Big Josh beat Joey Maggs with the butt drop in 3:02. Almost had this match down to the second from St. Pete. Borne wasn't as stiff though. ‡*

Tag Team Match

Young Pistols defeated The Freebirds in 11:58. St. Pete had a "Freebird Rules" chant but here in J-Ville it was "Freebirds Suck". Not a heel crowd here. Same bout but different finish as Garvin went for a DDT on Tracy but Steve came off the top with a flying clothesline and pin. **‡

World TV Championship

Steve Austin and Johnny B. Badd went to a time limit draw at 9:28. Good false finish as Badd did his sunset flip from the top rope to score a close three count that popped the crowd. Not as good as St. Pete. ‡*

Tag Team Match

Terry Taylor & Richard Morton beat Robert Gibson & Dustin Rhodes in 13:16. When the heels were coming back to the ring after faking going back to the dressing room, Taylor got in the first ring (set up for Wargames with two rings) and got his foot caught between rings. Pretty funny. Taylor does a great double arm suplex into a powerbomb. Same finish as St. Pete.*

5th Match

Tom Zenk beat Diamond Stud when he sling shot him into the ringpost and small packaged him at 3:12. Terrible bout. Zenk got 5 minutes with Dallas Page and worked him over pretty good until he superkicked him and Stud pulled him out 1:30 into the period. Dud

Grudge Match

Rick Steiner & P.N. News over Dick Slater & Dick Murdoch at 14:32. Steiner & News jumped Hardliners while they were doing mic work at ringside. Decent brawling. Rick dragged Slater to the back through the heel entrance and brought him back through the face entrance. Same finish as St. Pete but better action. **

World Heavyweight Championship

Lex Luger retained his title beating Bobby Eaton in 11:32. Lex was to be in the Wargames and Bobby was to wrestle Arn but they changed things around. No heat whatsoever for this match. Maybe Bobby shouldn't be a face. But as a heel without Cornette, it wouldn't be that hot. I don't think the fans know what to make of Lex's new personality. Maybe he shouldn't be a heel. Bobby missed the Alabama Jam and Lex piledrove him for the clean win. I like the clean pin but how come it seems Bobby is the only one who does a clean job? Afterwards, Barry Windham came out and clotheslined Race and chased Luger away. Place was going nuts. *½ for match ** post match.

Wargames

Sting, Yellow Dog, Barry Windham, & El Gigante beat One Man Gang, Arn Anderson, Kevin Sullivan, & Cactus Jack in 17:55. Cactus & Arn subbed for Nikita & Luger. If Nikita doesn't show in Atlanta tonight, then I'm assuming he's already history. They played up the former Horseman thing with Arn and Barry here. It was great. They were the two doing the coin toss and Arn was making the Horsemen four fingers sign and asking why he was hanging with the other faces. Yellow Dog started the 5 minute period with Gang. We couldn't believe it. Why not Jack or Arn? It was a terrible 5:00. The order after that was Sullivan (heels won the toss, surprised?), Sting, (bout picked up at this point) Arn, Barry, Cactus, and El. When Barry came in the ring, he extended his hand to Arn. Anderson went to shake it and Barry kicked him in the gut. Lots of head into cage shots but no blood. Kevin had Jack pull a hammer out from under the ring and that got some good play. Sting was trying to spike Gang's head between the rings. Finish saw Sully miss Gigante with powder and hit Gang. Gang 747'd Kevin thinking it was one of the faces. El put the claw on Kevin and he gave up. They shaved time like crazy. **½

NOTES

This was their best crowd all summer at 5,300. What is scary is if they draw well at the Omni, Dusty will probably go to the office Monday and say he's turning things around.....Chris Qualmann, Bill Otten (Jap photg) and myself made the trip up. There were these three 10 year olds in front of us who were at their first matches. We asked them if they liked Hulk Hogan and they said he was too old. They also said they didn't like Luger anymore because he doesn't pin anybody. We were stunned. We told them someday they would be newsletter.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

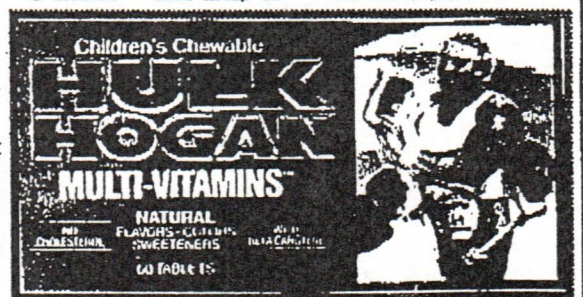
GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

THE GLOBAL DOME [Dallas, Texas (a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia)] 08-23-91. GWF TV TAPINGS FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF SEPTEMBER 7 AND SEPTEMBER 14. MAJOR LEAGUE WRESTLING (09-07-91): Steven Dane over Action Jackson..Chris Walker & Steve Simpson over The Outlaws..Makhan Singh over The Scorpio..Chaz & Terry Garvin over The Pretty Young Things..John Tatum & The California Stud over Gary Young & Jeff Gaylord..(09-14-91): The Patriot over Al Perez..

John Tatum & The California Stud over The American Breed..The Canadian Giant over El Diablo..Chaz over El Diablo
GWF MAIN EVENTS (09-04-91): Eddie Gilbert over Steve Cox..Makhan Singh over Jeff Gaylord..Terry Garvin over Ken Stryker..Terry Daniels over The Scorpio..Al Perez over Mike Davis..Chris Walker & Steve Simpson over Wild Bill Irwin & Sweet Daddy Falcone..
NEWS AND NOTES: On the 09-07 show, as Joe Pedicino stands alone on stage, he announces that he has been told that information as to the identity of The Boss is to be revealed during this segment. Out walks a suit-and-tie clad Scandor Akbar. Akbar takes the mic and states, emphatically, that he is not The Boss but is in the GWF to scout talent and is looking at one particular tag team. The next time Akbar is seen is during the Stud/Tatum vs. Young/Gaylord match. Akbar welcomes both teams and stands in a neutral corner. At the finish, he holds Young's feet allowing Tatum to get the pin, thus aligning himself with a team to be known as The California Connection..The 09-14 rematch between Perez and The Patriot is one of the better TV matches of the year. Easily a *** match and possibly higher, it went 20:00 of good action..At the 15:00 mark, Eddie Gilbert comes to ringside, ostensibly to aid Perez. The finish has Perez and The Patriot run into each other in the center of the ring. The Patriot goes to the mat while Perez fell back into the ropes, propping himself up. In an attempt to put Perez on top for a pin, Gilbert pushes Perez from ringside, hoping that he would fall on top of the prone Patriot. Patriot instead rolls Perez up in a small package to get the pin and win, outright, The North American Heavyweight Championship.Perez then argues with Gilbert and the two then begin shoving each other before walking away. While Perez has his back turned, Gilbert grabs a chair and is about to Pear Harbor Perez, however, Patriot takes the chair from Gilbert and saves Perez. The two shake hands and leave while Gilbert scampers away. This is very well done..During an interview segment, Gilbert refers to Craig Johnson as a "Richard Grieco look-a-like" and to me as a "Bill Watts wannabe". Thanks Eddie..ATT: 1000. Not bad with the Cowboys in town against the Falcons the same night.

THE OMNI COLISEUM (Atlanta, Georgia) 08-25-91. P.N. News over Terrence Taylor with a splash in 7:00 *.Rick Steiner & Bill Kazmeir over The Hardliners when Rick pinned Dick Slater in 8:00 *3/4..Lex Luger over Ron Simmons with a piledriver in 15:00 **1/2..El Gigante over One Man Gang with a claw in 8:00 3/4*..
UNITED STATES HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE TOURNAMENT: (Round 1) Steve Austin over Tom Zenk by disqualification in 6:00..The Diamond Studd over Bobby Eaton in 5:00..The Yellow Dog and Johnny B. Badd in a 15:00 draw..Richard Morton and Dustin Rhodes in a 4:00 DCOR..Sting over Arn Anderson in 5:00..(Round 2) Steve Austin over Barry Windham by DQ in 4:00 ..Sting over The Diamond Studd in 6:00..(Finals) Sting over Steve Austin in 7:00..
NEWS AND NOTES: Sting is the new U.S. Heavyweight champ.. Windham received a first round bye in the tourney..In the 8 tournament matches, there were 3 clean pins..The tag team match had good heat as Steiner, over the house mic, told the heels that he was going to break one of their arms because of what they did to Scott. Slater then offered Steiner ever increasing amounts of money to call the match off, but Steiner refused saying that he did not care about money, he "just wanted to break (their) arms"..Rhodes, Morton, and Windham all juiced at one point or another during the show..The One Man Gang / El Gigante match had the odd stipulation that, if OMG lost, his head would be shaved, and if Gigante lost, he would have to return to Argentina. Well, OMG lost. However (you knew that was coming, didn't you?) OMG lost very little hair despite the fact that Rhodes, Kazmeir, Zenk, and Yellow Dog were holding him down..Would someone explain to me why Brian Pillman was still in the Yellow Dog get-up when every WCW television show has announced his reinstatement and so has no less a media giant than The Atlanta Journal / Constitution?!.Kevin Sullivan was there however, Robert Gibson and Nikita Koloff were not..They return to the Omni on 10-12-91 with a main event of Lex Luger & Mr. Hughes vs. Ron Simmons & Barry Windham with special guest referee (hang on to your ass, Fred) Dusty Rhodes! That announcement got a big pop from the crowd. I would not be surprised to see a Dusty heel turn somewhere down the road. No inside information on that, just a guess..The Morton / Rhodes first round tournament match was the best match of the night. Probably around a ***1/2 to **** variety..Thanks to Lou Ladinsky for helping with results from this show..ATT: 5500. Wow. This was the biggest Omi crowd in at least 8 months. I do not know what brought the crowd back, but it did. Later...

THE LAST WORD...



NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

by,
Marianne Ryan

Let me apologize right away for what follows. It is 1:00am, Monday, I'm sick, I'm tired, and I just want to go to bed, but I must get this done for fear of incurring the wrath of Lemieux. I don't usually put this off until the absolute last minute, but for three weeks now, my life has been nothing short of utter chaos, from houseguests from hell to a brand new puppie (a dalmation named Frankie), to a surprise birthday party for my mother for 25 people for which we had food enough for 60. But enough of this nonsense, it's late, so let's get to wrestling stuff.

I should be leaving for New York in the next few days, but more and more it looks as though I will have to see SummerSlam on TV like most of you. For the most part, I won't be missing anything. The main event match from hell holds no interest whatsoever. In fact, after what has gone on the past few weeks, I'd rather see Warrior going against Jake. While I figure the tag team title match will be a good one, how much excitement can there really be when you know the Legion of Doom will walk away with the belts. The highlight of the evening, and what could be a top contender for match of the year will no doubt be Bret Hart going against Curt Hennig. All of their previous matches have been great. Bret deserves this belt, and with the recent reluctance of Mr. Perfect to wrestle these days, I have a good feeling Bret will have gold around his waist again.

It is a sad commentary on the event when a wedding holds the promise of more excitement than just about any of the matches, but that's exactly what the match made in heaven is doing. We all know something is going to happen, but what and by whom is a closely guarded secret.

All in all, if by some chance I decide to get my butt out to New York, I imagine getting to visit Marilyn, and some other friends from college will be more fun than what goes on at the Garden. But there is always hope that Survivor Series will be more exciting, and it will only be 86 miles away.

Maybe part of my seeming apathy is due to the fact that the last match here in Chicago was the end of July, and the WWF won't be back until October. In fact the very same day as my 10-year high school reunion. Maybe I'll bring Sherri by. What a shock that would be to old classmates. Hey, maybe I'll bring a bunch of the guys down. Anyway, there will be an appearance sometime before October, but it will be part of a Republican fund-raiser. Is it me, or do you have problems seeing a group of conservative Republicans fully appreciating Paul Beaser and the Undertaker?

I had a pleasant surprise at the last matches here in Chicago when I ran into Jim Powers. He was glad to be getting some work with Titan again, and seeing him made me wonder why it was Paul Roma who got the big push and not Jim. I think Vince would have gotten more for the money with him. Jim Neidhart was also there explaining that the reason he wears the same jacket every week on Wrestling Challenge is that it costs too much money to have another one made.

WCW was in town over the weekend with a card so pathetic it wasn't even advertised in the papers. At the same time, Windy City Wrestling keeps chugging along. Sapphire made a special appearance at a recent match, and they are hoping to get Koko B Ware for a few shots. He has the month of September off, so who knows. Also taking a vacation is the sensational one. Sherri will be taking 10 days off right after SummerSlam.

As good a wrestler as Shawn Michaels is, and as good a tag team as the Rockers are, no one really seems to be missing him. It will be good to have him back, unlike Dino Bravo. Even with the brown hair, I have no use for him.

Thank god, I'm running out of room. I get to go to bed now. Enjoy SummerSlam, the end of summer, and all the good stuff in between. Until next month...

CORRESPONDENTS CORNER

American Legion Post (CWF)
Correspondent: Shannon Rose

Tampa, FL

August 22, 1991

1) Pat Powers beat Jim "The Animal" Cooper when he pinned both Cooper and manager Paul Sampson. 2) Big Jim Magnum beat Muhammed Studd w/ manager Mr. Fritz via DQ. 3) Penelope Paradise pinned A.J. Watson. 4) Kevin Catlyn beat Lebanese Assassin. 5) The Hell Rebels (Tommy Starr & Tom Sawyer) beat Chris Proctor & Keno McKenzie in a \$10,000 bounty match. Mega juice from Rebels everywhere. 6) Masked Superstar w/ manager Paradise went to a double count out with Tex Sallinger managed by Ron Slinker.

LETTERS TO "AR"

IWF & WCW

You did a very credible job on your latest IWF coverage. Contrary to other peoples beliefs, I wasn't begrudging your involvement with the promotion, just how it could possibly effect coverage.

Interesting Mansfield interview. I would have loved to see your reaction when Eddy went off on the sheets. It must have been a strange situation to be in as a journalist.

You sure predict a quick ending for the WCW group. I'd love for it to end soon too, but I figure it won't happen that quickly. The four hours of programming costs so little to produce that anything above a 2 makes TBS money. This is in contrast to a movie, which costs more to make and as a result, needs a higher rating to break even. But they should get out of the house show business. Yes, it would be like admitting defeat, but geez, bite the bullet already.

Eric Krol
Dekalb, IL

RL- In truth, when Eddy made that comment, it didn't phase me because I've heard it so many times before. It's an opinion most people in the biz hold

Downtown Bruno

It's too bad Titan backed down from calling Downtown Bruno a Pee Wee Herman clone. Great heat, something topical without the fuss of the Persian Gulf war. But I guess a character based on someone famous who was caught masturbating is not great FAMILY entertainment. Geez, just the idea that they even thought of making fun of Paul Reuben via Bruno is stupid. But I guess no one chants weasel at Heenan anymore (at least not until he advises Flair) and they can imitate the inference when as Henry Whippleman, the marks still chant Pee Wee. I told you they were shaking up the managerial ranks at Titan again. This time, Sid gets Downtown in to manage Busich. They could get rid of the dead weight and dump idiotic stereotypes Slick and Fuji, and it wouldn't be too soon.

There hasn't been this much fuss over a franchise coming in (Sid, Busich and Bruno) since 83-84 when Hogan was brought in as the franchise (bringing pals Okerlund and David Schults in with him).

Mike Lano
San Francisco, CA

RL- Wait until September rolls around and the next franchise comes in, Flair and Arn. Just a prediction. (Flair definite, Arn wants in bad.) Also, I wouldn't actually call Hogan and Schults friends.

I Stand Corrected

Regarding Florida independant wrestler J.B. Bad and the originality of his name, Bad has been using this name since 2/1. World Championship Wrestling and Mark Merro did not debut their Johnny B. Badd character until May. Just wanted to let you know J.B. Bad didn't get his name from Johnny B. Badd

Also, regarding Arena Report as the name of your bulletin, KEEP IT! The names Ron Lemieux and Arena Report are synonymous.

Ken Verret
Houma, LA

RL- How did I know when I typed that Bad item last issue that someone was going to prove me wrong. Thanks for the correction Ken and the thoughts on "AR".

WWF Returns with their King of the Ring Tourney in Providence on 9/7 after a 1 year hiatus of the tourney. Some 1st round matches are pretty interesting. Hart-Kemp, I.R.S. - Berzeker, Steamboat-NiBiase, Animal-Undertaker, Hawk-Saggs, Knotts-Duggan, Virgil-Skinner, Perfect Warrior. Results next issue.